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VI. An Account of a BOOK.

Musei Petiveriani Centuria Prima.

Rariora Naturæ continens: viz Animalia, Fossilia, Plantas, ex variis Mundi plagis advecta, Ordine digesta, Nominibus propriis signata & Iconibus æneis eleganter illustrata. Lond. Ex Offic. S. Smith & B. Walford Reg. Societ. Typograph. ad insignia Principis in Cæmet. D. Pauli. 1696. 8°.

THIS *First Century* consisting of such *Animals, Vegetables, Fossils, &c.* as hath been either observed by my self, or Communicated to me, not only from many very *Worthy* and *Learned Assistants* at home, but also brought me by my *Kind Friends* from divers parts of the *World*, or Transmitted from such *Curious Persons*, as do me the Honour to Correspond with me from several parts abroad, I presume it may not be amiss to give you some particulars of them. And *First*, I shall begin with the *Animals*, which are here *Insects* and *Snails*; amongst the former, under N^o 3. is accurately delineated the *Papilio Leucomelanus*, which I do not find as yet clearly described (if at all) by any Author.

N^o 6. is a pretty small greenish *Fly*, with golden Eyes, very beautiful to look on, but if bruised, smells strong like Humane Excrements.

9. This *Beetle* is taken Notice of by most Insect Writers, and is often seen flying in the *Evenings* about *Autumn*, I call him the *Lousie Beetle*, because when taken, he is generally found to be infested with small Vermin, like *Lice*. The Males of these have a *Copper Lustre*, and the *Females* a *Green*, as Mr. *Charles Du Bois*, a very Curious Observer, and my highly esteemed Friend, informs me; which variation of Lustre I have observed in divers other shining Beetles.

10 And 11, are two small *Green Beetles*, which I have here Figured, because I do not find them distinguish'd by other Authors.

The next 8, are *Shell'd Snails*, the first of which my very Worthy and Learned Friend Dr. *Lifter*, makes to be the same with the *Pomatia* of *Gesner*; this is that Snail which should be used in the *Shops*, but by reason of the scarceness of them, they being to be found but in few places of *England*, we are obliged to make use of our Common *Garden kind*, which I have Synonimized under N^o 13.

These, and the two following, are all the *Land-Shells*, of the round Form, that have as yet been Observed in *England*, as is N^o 17. the only *Gowrie*, but in *Jamaica* and *Barbadoes* there are found one very like it, which I have named under N^o 18.

The next by many are call'd *Black-Moors Teeth*, (I suppose from their Whiteness) these, in many places of *Africa* go as Money.

Numb.

Numb. 20. Is the *Asteria* or *Star Stone*, to this sort we have given the peculiar Epithet of *Shugborough*, because in former times they were so particularly taken Notice of there, that to this Day, the Family of that Name, in whose grounds they are still found, bear them in their Coat of Arms.

We come next to the *Vegetables* or *Plants*, the first of which is a *Guinea Tree*, called *Aconroba*, they find it endowed with this Virtue, that being boiled in Wine and drunk, is good in the *Small-Pox*.

The five next are *Golden Maiden Hairs*, being such as have either striated or villose and downy Caps, four of which are *undescribed*, and two of them here *Figured*.

Numb. 28. This is a new *black Maiden-Hair* from the *Canaries*, and is now growing in his Majesty's Stoves at *Hampton Court*, from which my very worthy Friend, and most accurate Botanist Dr. *Plukenet*, hath lately given a very good Icon of it in his admirable *Almagestum Botanicum*, *Tab. 291. fig. 2.*

The two next are very rare and beautiful Ferns some time since sent me from *China*.

Numb. 31. is an *American Maiden-hair*, and hath this remarkable distinction, that whereas most other *Maiden-hairs* and *Ferns* have blackish or rusty coloured Seed, this is white as Snow. This elegant Plant *James Rheed* brought from *Barbadoes*; I have also seen it amongst Dr. *Sloane's* most Curious Collection of *Jamaica Ferns*, who, in his most compendious and elaborate Catalogue of the *Plants* of that *Island*, *Pag. 20.* calls it, *Filix non ramo-*
sa.

sa minor caule nigro, furculis raris pinnulis angustis dentatis raris brevibus acutis, subtus niveis.

Numb. 32. Is a *Malabar Tankweed*, very frequent in their *Tanks* or *Ponds*; it is a very odd Plant, and not to be reduc'd to any that have yet come to our Knowledge.

The three following are Plants of a strange Nature, bearing pod-like Fruit, as well below Ground as above; the first I have received not only from *Africa*, but *Asia* and *America*, the second as yet from *Africa* only, where it was first Discover'd, the last is a Native of *Portugal* and *Spain*.

36, 37, & 38, Are three very rare *Bacciferous East-India Trees*, one of which my Ingenious Friend Mr. *Samuel Brown*, a Surgeon, residing at *Fort St. George*, assures me, is the *Yellow Sanders*, which is a discovery we are highly obliged to him for, having hitherto had but an obscure knowledge of it.

39. Is a *Ceilon Tree* called *Bombu*, the Leaves of which they use there in Dying, as Dr. *Herman* late Professor of *Botany* at *Leyden* in *Holland* a little before his Death informed me.

40 & 41. Are *tricocoos Shrubs* called *Widdow-Wayles*, the last a very peculiar one from *Malabar*, being a *trifoliate spinose Shrub*.

42, &c. Are *Scorpion Sena's*, the two last are very rare, they were sent me from *Guinea* by Mr. *Edward Barter*, from whom I expect many other Curiosities.

46. And the two following are *East-India Bindweeds*, yet I received the first from *Guinea*, where I find there grows a great many Plants, the same with those at *Malabar*, and *Fort St. George*.

49, &c. Are *Submarine Plants*, resembling *Heath*, the last a very beautiful one, and to be seen in the most Curious *Museum* of my Honoured Friend Mr. *Charlton*, who was pleased to give me a piece of it.

52 & 53. Are *Horse-shoe Vetches*, the last a Native of *Malabar*.

54 & 55, Are *Ferns*, the first from *China*, and the other from *Fort St. George*, which being as yet undescribed, is here delineated.

56, &c. Are *Mushrooms* of a late Observation.

59, &c. These are six *Hairy spiked Cocks-foot-Grasses*, all of them very rare, some from the *East-Indies*, and most of them not taken Notice of before.

65 Is a Tree from *Surat*, called there *Gumboe*; it bears a Fruit like an Orange.

66, &c. Are *Glass-worts*, whereof two are found about *Montpelier*, and the Coasts of *Spain*, the last came from the fertile *Canary Islands*.

70 The *Moss* here Figured, is of singular beauty and shape, having at the top of a very long slender naked Footstalk, a Scarlet cap, very like a *Corn Poppy Flower*, with its Leaves turned downwards, resembling a small Umbrella or Bongrace. This elegant Plant was gathered near *Portsground* in *Norway*, by my kind Friend Mr. *Richard Wheeler*, who frequently sends me such *Plants*, *Shells* and *Insects*, as these parts afford.

71. And the eighteen following, are several kinds of *English Mosses*, many of them not known before, some of which are here Figured, viz. 74, 79, 87, & 89.

90. Here are divers sorts of *Like weed* or *Arsmart* amongst them, one from the *East-Indies*, and another from *Virginia*.

97 & 98, Are two *Purging Sea Bindweeds*, call'd in our Shops *Soldanella*; the first an Inhabitant on our own
N n n Coasts,

Coasts, the other common to both the *East* and *West-Indies*.

99. This is a *Woolly headed Xanthium*, or *lesser Burdock* ; it's described in the tenth Volume of the *Hortus Malabaricus*, pag. 117. where, it's said, they use the *Root* bruised in *Whey*, as a Remedy against the *Piles*, and the *Powder* of it Cures the *Belly-ach*. I have also received it from *Cape Coast* in *Guinea*, where the *Natives* call it *Tetraphoe*, and boil it in *Broth* for the *Flux*.

100. This last is also of the same kind, but a *Native* of *Portugal* ; the first Knowledge we had of it was from the *Physick-Garden* at *Leyden*, from whence it was brought me by my worthy Friend *Dr. Lecaen*.

Thus you see this *Century* is composed of several *Animals* and *Plants* wholly new, with the *Figures* of many of them, there are others which are very rare, and procured from remote Parts, as *Asia*, *America* and *Africa*, from which last part of the *World*, you have some given you with their *Native Names*, and what use the *Inhabitants* relate of them. Moreover, to each *Animal*, *Plant*, &c. already described, I have made a *Recital* and *Connexion* of all the *Celebrated Authors*, as have yet come to my hands ; so that at one view you have the several *Synonymous Names* of all the precedent *Writers* of *Natural History*. I have likewise quoted the different Editions of such as are Remarkable ; and also, for the greater ease of the *Reader*, have referred him to the very *Pages* in which they are treated of.

To enumerate the many advantages which will accrue from thus *Synonymising* of *Authors*, and the *Examples* of those who have already begun it, will be too tedious here to relate ; I shall only therefore briefly mention my *kind Assistants* to this *Work*, and then *Conclude*.

First, To begin with *Domestick Helps*, being such as *Natural History* as well as my self, are highly obliged to, amongst whom are Dr. *Lister*, *Plukenet*, *Tancred Robinson*, *Sherard*, *Sloane*, *Scampton*, *Uvedale*, *Woodward*, &c. as also Mr. *Jacob Bobart*, and his Brother *Tilman*, Mr. *Charlton*, *Dale*, *Doody*, *Du-bois*, *Pool*, *Ray*, *Vernon*, &c. not omitting my Foreign Correspondents, but most particularly the *Celebrated Breynius*, and never to be forgotten Dr. *Herman*, with several other very kind Assistants, as Dr. *Lecaen*, Mr. *Bartar*, *Brown*, *Cholmly*, *Cunningham*, *London*, *Lewis*, *Kirkwood*, *Preston*, *Smith*, *Wheeler*, &c. besides many others who have very lately Communicated several things to me, whose Names I shall elsewhere have shortly an occasion to mention, with a respect due to their Merits.

To Conclude, this little Book is a *Century* or *small Specimen of Natural History*, and being willing to promote and improve (as far as I am able) so necessary a Study, I here propose to continue the Publishing whatever of this Nature shall come to my hands. And for that purpose I humbly intreat, that all *Practitioners in Physick*, *Sea-Surgeons*, or other *Curious Persons* who Travel into *Foreign Countries*, will be pleased to make Collections for me of whatever *Plants*, *Shells*, *Insects*, &c. they shall meet with, preserving them according to Directions, that I have made so easie, as the meanest Capacity is able to perform, the which I am ready to give to such as shall desire them.

To these, and all such *Curious Persons* who reside in different parts of the World, whose Inclination leads them to this Study, if there be any thing in this or the following Centuries, that they would have
samples

(400)

samples of, or desire to be otherwise informed, I shall endeavour to serve them, in whatever lies in the Power of

Their most Humble Servant,

*From the White Cross in
Aldersgate-street, London.*

James Petiver.

*The second Century is ready for the Press, and the
Work shall be continued from time to time.*

E R R A T A: Tranſact. Numb. 223.

PAge 345. line 1. for *Surveyor* read *Purveyor*. p. 348. l. 16. dele of *their Production the best*. p. 349. l. 26. for *Rue* r. *Reve*. ib. l. ult. before Gallons, add 16. p. 350. l. 26 r. *althaa*. l. 27. dele *baccii vulg.* p. 351. l. 6. for *cool*. r. *Coal*. p. 352. l. 22. for September 2d. 9—4—96 r. 0—4—96. for Octob. 28 0—0—45 r. 0—0—458 for April 6 2—3—375 r. 2—4—375. April 20 2—1—000 r. 2—2—000.

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